The Blurb

Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009

Volume 59 Number 10 www.phil-mont.org October 2009

Phil-Mont's 2009 Haring Scholarship Awarded to Paul Hoops, W3EGL

17 year old Paul of Watsontown, PA

see page5

Mark your calendar!

November 14th is the PMRC 60th Anniversary Luncheon

At Ann's Choice on Street Road in Warminster from 1 to 4 PM

Current members - watch your mailbox for menu, prices and reservation info

Election season is fast approaching and Phil-Mont needs you!

see *Prez Sez* on page 3

The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. ***Copying and quoting*** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. ***Subscriptions*** are available to non-members for $12, addressed to the Treasurer.

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WA3KIO (09)
N3XKE (09)
N3MT (10)
KB2ERL (10)
KB3IV (10)
NS3K (A)

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For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

Committees
Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Awards: open
Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
Directory:WB3KOJ
DX: N3MT
Emerg.Coor: K3HWE
Field Day: KE3QB
Internet: K3XS
Membership: N3XKE
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP
Public Service: KE3QB
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3AOK
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: N3GLU
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: NS3K
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: N3UBY
Youth: N3MT

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital,** 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations **W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA ***Trustee:*** **W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3AA-L
W3EM: Field Day/special event station *Trustee:* W3VVS

The Officers

President: **WU3I Steve Hoch,** 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net
Vice President: **N3QV Eric D. Marano,** PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net
Secretary: **W3STW Al Tribble** wstw@juno.com
Treasurer: **W3RM Richard A. Moll** roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treasurer: **N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli** michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez…

Here it is October and we are going to need a Nominating Committee Chair Person. We will also need Candidates for Office. ***PLEASE STEP UP FOR PHIL-MONT.*** This month brings the last of the Hamfests in the local area with the Sellersville Hamfest on the 18th. I will be around more on the weekends as the camping season has come to a close and will have some limited free time after the Hamfest. I hope to see all of you at the meetings and let's be very careful out there as school is well back into session. While our own Chuck, K3QLY, is no longer traveling the highways with a school bus there are plenty of them still out there as well as *new* teen drivers going to and from school. No more from here at this time.

de Steve, WU3I

ARRL VEC

There were two sessions in September:
The 19th saw one new General and one new Extra.
On the 24th a new Technician joined the ranks.
Many thanks to our Volunteer Examiners:
Jim, NS3K; Jack,WA3BXH; Ed, KB3IV; Joe, N3UGI; and our **newest VE, Ron NY3J.**

de Jim, NS3K

October Birthdays

01 Ed Masarsky - KB3IV
Charlie Phelps - N3OOV
02 Susan DeCicco (XYL KE3QB)
Donna Stevenson (XYL K3HWE)
03 Lisa Brady – KA3VIL (XYL N3CB)
David Colucci - KB3HOE

04 Joe Elmaleh - K3HIJ
06 Chris Brady – N3CB
Joan Freer (XYL W3YLT)
10 Patricia DiNardi - (XYL N3XKE)

11 Charlye Johnson, Jr. - K3CJ

31 Dick Klein - W3WXC

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

90 Full Paid Members
9 Family Members
3 Youth Members
2 Honorary Members
1 Pending Member

Young ham seeks PMRC membership

At the September general meeting, Paul Eberwine, KB3SYX, was introduced as an applicant for

Continued next page

youth membership. Paul, 13, was licensed June1, which will make him our youngest member. Paul, together with his dad, visited Field Day...and made his first radio contact ever from the 40-meter tent (on 40 phone), under the guidance of 15-year-old John, KB3SJV. He then went to the GOTA station and made a number of additional FD QSO's.

Paul A. Eberwine - KB3SYX
3918 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129
Phone: 215-844-4847
D.O.B. 2/12/1996
License Class: Technician
Occupation: Student
E-mail: paul.eberwine@gmail.com

de Dick, W3RM

From the Secretary

Board of Directors meeting minutes
September 9th, 2009

President Steve, WU3I, opened the meeting at 1903 hours attending the meeting were Bill W3AOK, Fred WA3KIO, Ed KB3IV, Dick W3RM, Gene N3XKE and Al W3STW.

Dick, Club Treasurer, gave a report on the Club's July and August expenses and finances, a motion to accept the report passed. The BoD approved the W3QV repair expense due to damage caused by lightning.

To celebrate our 60th anniversary, the BoD selected the Ann's Choice Catering and Dining facilities to host the Club's banquet, Saturday November 14, 2009 from 1 to 4 P.M.

The BoD accepted a motion to adjourn at 1957 hours.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes
September 9th, 2009

PMRC president Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 2000 hours. Steve gave words of welcome back from a summer break in Club (July and August) in meetings and called for each of us to introduce ourselves to one another.

Dick, W3RM and club Treasurer, reported the Club's finances are in good shape. He also introduced KB3SYX, an applicant for Club membership and informed us that Paul Hoops, W3EGL is the winner of the PMRC Haring Scholarship.

A request for Club Members to use the W3AA/60 call when operating on the HF bands continues. Stations requesting a W3AA/60 certificate documenting the QSO should send a 9 x 12 inch S.A.S.E. to P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA, 19001, not the Club Member's address.

Future W3AA/60 operators are Bob, KB2ERL, October and Jeff, KB3QMT November. Remember, W3AA/60 operators may still use the call until year's end. A count of contacts and QSLs, will be made next year.

Ed, KB3IV announced that there will be a club anniversary luncheon Saturday November 14, 2009 in the Ann's Choice Catering Room Warminster, Pa., from 1 to 4 P.M., the cost depending on choice of menu, ranges from $22 to $24. Listen to W3QV and check your Blurb for further details.

Carmen, KE3QB, Club Chairman for the MS 150 Bike Tour, gave words of thanks to the membership for their participation in the 2009 MS 150 Bike Tour.

Steve turned the meeting over to Bill, W3AOK, at 2107 hours for tonight's program about Pitcairn Island history and amateur radio operation (VR6 land) via a DVD presentation.

de Al, W3STW

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*October is **Adopt From a Shelter** Month!*
Go. Now. Seriously.

Phil-Mont's 2009 Haring Scholarship Winner *from cover*

Since its establishment by your board in 2001, the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Scholarship Fund has made one or more scholarship grants-in-aid to deserving young licensed amateurs in each of the past eight academic years, 2002 through 2009.

Without cost to Phil-Mont, the administration of our grants, i.e., the application process, verification of data, and selection of recipients, is performed for us by the Scholarship Committee of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. (FAR), a consortium of radio clubs throughout a multi-state area. Applicants for Phil-Mont's scholarships must reside in either the Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) or Southern New Jersey (SNJ) ARRL Section; hold an FCC amateur radio license; and be enrolled in, or accepted for enrollment in a full-time course of studies leading to a degree from a college or university.

For the academic year 2009-10, the club has again underwritten the Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, with a grant of $2,000, honoring the memory of "Jack" Haring, a long-time Phil-Mont member, officer, director, Blurb editor, and webmaster.

This year's Haring Scholarship was awarded to **Robert Paul Hoops, W3EGL,** of Watsontown, Northumberland County, PA. Paul, who is 17, graduated at the top of his class from Warrior Run High School, and has just begun his freshman year, in the honors program, at Rochester Institute of Technology, pursuing an Electrical Engineering degree, with minor in Mechanical Engineering, as his interest is in Robotics. (In addition to Phil-Mont's scholarship, Paul also received, through FAR, a second scholarship grant of $500 from the Murgas Amateur Radio Club.)

While in high school, Paul received three regional and five state honors from the Technology Student Association, including "Rubik's Cube Champion" and "Outstanding Technology Student of the Year." His other interests include the Boy Scouts, where, at age 14, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout, with three palms; the school drama club; and his church youth group.

Paul was first licensed in August, 2006, as KB3NXD; and he upgraded to General in June, 2007. He is now working on his Extra. His early interest in ham radio followed his father's entrance to the hobby: Bill Hoops, K3WJH, is a Baptist minister serving as a federal prison chaplain. During the Katrina disaster, Paul's father was sent to help in that area, and noted, "Everywhere I went, I saw ham operators providing virtually the only communications."

The "bug" bit him, and after returning home, Bill attained his ham ticket…followed soon by son Paul. Their shared shack includes a TS-2000 and 45-foot crank-up tower. Paul is a member of both the Milton Amateur Radio Club and the Columbia Montour A.R.C. He is also an active member of ARES/RACES in all three counties surrounding his home.

Phil-Mont is indeed pleased and honored to include Paul, W3EGL, among the group of outstanding young amateurs who have received scholarship grants from us during the past eight years since our memorial scholarship program was established. After receiving notice of his Phil-Mont Scholarship award, Paul wrote us, via W3RM, as follows:

Dear Members of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship which you provided through the Foundation for Amateur Radio. I will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in Electrical Engineering, this fall.
I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for about three years. Amateur Radio has piqued my interest in electrical engineering. The Amateur Radio operators in my area have also aided me in understanding electronics. It is good to know that, just as local hams have helped me learn about electronics, the amateur radio community as a whole is willing to help me further my knowledge of this fascinating skill.

As you requested, I have enclosed two photographs. One is my senior picture, and the other was taken while I was operating 40 meters at Field Day '09.

Once again, thank you,
(signed)
Paul Hoops, W3EGL

Radio Stores … 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

THE "522"
VHF on the cheap

The title of this article does not refer to the Doylestown local departing Suburban Station at 5:22 in the evening. Rather, it is the shortened designation for the SCR-522, a VHF aircraft communications package that was on every airplane shipped to Europe during WW-II. The 522 was essentially copied from an existing British product designated TR-1143. The U.S. version consisted of an aluminum cabinet about 17" wide, 23" high and 10" deep. Inside were two subassemblies, a 12-tube VHF receiver and a matching transmitter with a frequency range of 112-151 Mc. Although the Tx and Rx were not strictly "autotuned" by servos as some Collins equipment, interstage tuning capacitors were ganged together by a linear cam mechanism for optimum tuning on any of four spot frequencies within the overall range.

The 522 was the foundation for early post war 2-meter operation at many ham stations. I paid $14 for mine, used but in excellent condition. Tuning the receiver across the 2M band posed a problem because the oscillator control covered ten times the range needed by hams. Fred Shaw, W3ADV, was my mentor and he had developed a very simple tuning method that was an adaptation of a 1930s invention for bandspread tuning by that paragon of receiver designers, McMurdo Silver. [As an aside, McMurdo Sound in Antarctica was named in honor of Silver for his contribution to Adm. Perry's first expedition, for which Silver designed and built a radio receiver crucial to the success of the venture.]

As Silver's scheme was applied to the 522 receiver by Freddy, a lever about ten inches long was attached to the shaft of the oscillator tuning condenser. The other end of the lever was spring-loaded against an eccentric cam fitted to the shaft of a vernier control knob. The cam was simply a short piece of round brass rod drilled off-center by about 1/8". Then, as the tuning knob was rotated through its range, the cam offset moved the end of the lever 1/8" up and down with a corresponding small angular rotation of the 522 oscillator condenser shaft. By fiddling with the amount of cam offset and the locking position of the lever on the tuning condenser, the receiver tuning range could be adjusted to just cover the new 2M band of 144 to 148 Mc. (Prior to the war our VHF allocation was 112-116 Mc, known as the 2½ meter band.)

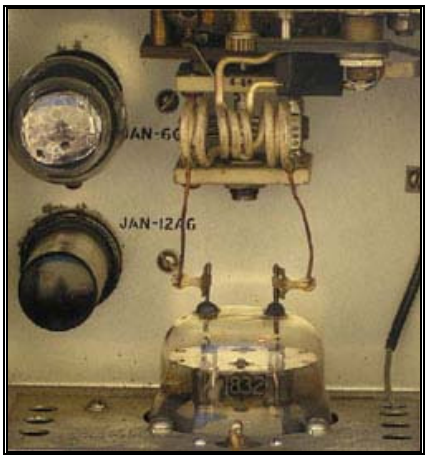
The transmitter was conservatively designed for 6 watts output with an 832 twin-tetrode push-pull power amplifier in the final, preceded by another 832 tripler to ensure plenty of grid drive for the final amplifier. That was fine for wartime aircraft over Europe, but in Philadelphia it meant the driver not only multiplied 48 Mc. to 144 Mc. – no problem in itself – but also generated a *fourth* harmonic of 48Mc. that fell right on Channel 10's audio carrier at 216 Mc. Oi! There was trouble in the neighborhood! However, when W3VVS, one of the TVI Committee's Field Investigators observed that there was no TVI on my own TV set, which was right in the shack, Paul delicately explained the situation to an irate neighbor who grudgingly accepted circumstances and stopped telephoning me every time I went on the air.

My receiver and the transmitter were mounted with their power supplies in a standard 19" rack cabinet, making a compact (for its time) 2-meter AM station. Many happy hours of ragchewing into early morning hours were enjoyed with that system, but when I decided to try the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes Contest in January 1952, an improvement in operating style was needed. In those pre-repeater days on 2-meter AM, stations were scattered all over the band. The only way to make an unscheduled QSO was to call a CQ, which typically ran *two minutes long!* To simplify establishing a

contact with a CQ, the calling station would often announce at the end, "Tuning from the low end up", or, ". . . high end down". That gave receiving ops an opportunity to rapidly shift their Tx frequency and thus be closer to where the calling station would be listening. That was fine for hams with VFO control, but with my rock-bound 522, something had to be done.

Fortunately, the military SCR-522 package also included a rapid tuning system. It consisted of an accessory ratchet motor that mounted on the face of the transmitter to manipulate its tuning control rods, and a BC-602 push-button remote control box that caused the motor to home on one of four pre-set positions. Thus, with a few crystal frequencies strategically located across the band, one could appropriately respond to a CQ by rapidly selecting a transmit frequency at the low- or high-end of the band to snag a contact while the other poor sods were in the wrong place.

The contest was great fun at first, with that ratchet motor emitting a raucous BRA-A-A-CK every time I would QSY from one part of the band or another in reply to a CQ. But even my "frequency agile" 522 and a five element beam couldn't compete against sophisticated high power stations, big beams and high altitude locations like Mt. Airy and Roxborough, which were the hotbed of local VHF activity in those days. Nevertheless, the second life of my SCR-522 provided a cheap and educational entry to the world of VHF. I sometimes wish I still had it!



BC625 - Tx

BC624 - Rx

Also pointed out by Bob, W3NE …

In this month's (October) QST, page 101, the monthly column devoted to issues from earlier eras looks back of fifty years to October 1959. The cover featured a gas balloon carrying Phil-Monter W3JIL operating Jim Spencer's 10 meter portable rig on a gas-filled balloon flight. The event was described in an article by another Phil-Monter, W3QZO. (A.K.A

October at PMRC...

4th Sunday –WB3KOJ *NCS*
7th Wed - Board of Directors meeting
11th Sunday -WU3I *NCS*
12th Columbus Day (Hug an Italian!)
14th Wed - General Membership Meeting
18th Sunday -KB3IV *NCS*
22nd Thur -VE test session
25th Sunday – KC2PMW *NCS*
31st Spooky Saturday ***(Halloween!)***

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from ***you!***

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For Sale:

Double Braided Dacron Dipole Rope now in stock. 3/16 diameter. Black in color. Will cut to requested length. High stretch resistance. Strength: Excellent, Resistance to abrasion: Excellent, Resistance to chemicals: Very good, Acids: Good. Sunlight resistance: Excellent, Shock load: Excellent. Does not float. Seal ends with heat. Resistant to mildew. Breaking strength 630 Pounds. $0.14 per foot

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member.

See page 2 for contact info: Steve, WU3I

Stop by 28.480 any night at 2000L and meet Kurt, NN3C and other local 10M enthusiasts.

First Class Mail

The Blurb
The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
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